

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 INRE-00 IO-13 RSR-01 /081 W

----- 071842

O 300055 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2329

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9480

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR 28 MAY 1973

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO DATED MAY 28  
IS REPEATED HERE FOR YOUR ACTION/ INFO:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 365

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MARR, VS, CB

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR MEMORIAL DAY, 28 MAY 1973

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE MAY 26-27 WEEKEND SAW AN INCREASE IN  
NVA/ VC INITIATED INCIDENTS IN THE DELTA. REPORTED MR IV  
" KILL RATIOS" RESPONDED TO MG NGHI' S REQUEST. ANOTHER  
PHNOM PENH BOUND RIVERINE CONVOY CLEARED VIETNAM WITHOUT  
INCIDENT. VC ROCKETS DAMAGED A TAXI BOAT IN CA MAU,  
KILLING AND WOUNDING A LARGE NUMBER OF CIVILIANS. END  
SUMMARY.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

A. INCREASED VC/ NVA ACTIVITY RAISED THE BAROMETER OF  
VIOLENCE IN MR IV OVER THE MAY 26-27 WEEKEND. THE DELTA  
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WITNESSED 85 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING 61 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 18 HARASSMENTS, AND THREE ACTS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE. THERE WERE ONLY THREE GROUND ATTACKS. THIRTY RVNAF SOLDIERS WERE KILLED, 154 WOUNDED, AND FIVE MISSING. ARVN SPOKESMEN CLAIMED 81 COMMUNIST DEAD AND THREE CAPTURED.

B. CHUONG RLIEN WAS ONCE AGAIN THE SCENE OF THE DELTA'S MOST INTENSE FIGHTING. MR IV SPOKESMEN REPORTED 33 WEEK-END INCIDENTS THERE, 29 OF WHICH WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE. VC/NVA UNITS FORMERLY PRESSURING HOA LUU VILLAGE EIGHT KILOMETERS FROM VI THANH (CAN THO 0339) HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR OLD HAUNTS. ACCORDINGLY, VC/NVA ABF'S WERE MORE EVENLY SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE MAY 27-28 THAN HAS BEEN NORMAL THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS.

C. WEEKLY FIGURES MR IV RELEASED FOR MAY 20-26 SHOW A CASUALTY RATIO OF NEARLY FIVE TO ONE IN FAVOR OF GOVERNMENT FORCES. ARVN SPOKESMEN REPORTED 107 RVNAF KILLED, 547 WOUNDED, AND 16 MISSING, WHILE CLAIMING 491 ENEMY DEAD AND 18 CAPTURED. IN ADDITION, GOVERNMENT FORCES CAPTURED 15 CREW-SERVED AND 176 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS, WHILE LOSING ONLY ONE CREW-SERVED AND 45 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS OF THEIR OWN.

D. SINCE MR IV COMMANDER MG NGUYEN VINH NGHI MAY 11 ORDERED HIS COMMANDERS TO RAISE THEIR "KILL RATIO S", DELTA CASUALTY FIGURES HAVE MIRACULOUSLY RESPONDED. THE FOLLOWING FIGURES REFLECT RECENTLY REPORTED DEATHS IN ACTION:

	RVNAF	VC/NVA	RATIO
WEEK OF APRIL 29- MAY 5	281	353	1:1.25
MAY 6-12	188	307	1:1.6
MAY 13-19	149	356	1:2.3
MAY 20-26	107	491	1:5.0

E. SAPPERS FILTERED BY SLEEPING GUARDS TO DETONATE A CLAY-MORE MINE DURING THE NIGHT OF 25-26 MAY AT THE CHUONG THIEN CHIEU HOI CENTER JUST OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE CAPITAL OF VI THANH. THE EXPLOSION KILLED ONE PERSON AND WOUNDED TWO. SEVERAL M79 ROUNDS ALSO FELL IN THE AREA, CAUSING NO INJURIES. PROVINCE AUTHORITIES DID NOT REPORT THE CLAYMORE INCIDENT TO MR IV, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF EMBARRASSMENT.

F. VC ROCKETS DAMAGED A TAXI BOAT AND KILLED AND WOUNDED LARGE NUMBERS OF CIVILIANS AND POLICEMEN IN CA MAU AT 0754 MAY 27. TWO B-40 ROCKETS STRUCK THE BOAT ON THE CAI NAI RIVER, NEAR NAM CAN DISTRICT TOWNHU NINE CIVILIANS AND TWO POLICEMEN WERE REPORTED KILLED. FOUR POLICEMEN, A CONFIDENTIAL

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VIETNAMESE NAVY SAILOR, A DEPUTY VILLAGE CHIEF, AND 24 CIVILIANS WERE WOUNDED.

G. A PHNOM PENH BOUND RELIEF CONVOY OF EIGHT CARGO VESSELS AND FOUR TUGS DEPARTED TAN CHAU, CHAU DOC PROVINCE, AT 0900 HOURS MAY 28. THE CONVOY CROSSED THE CAMBODIAN BORDER WITHOUT INCIDENT AT 1015. GVN AIR STRIKES SUPPORTED THE CONVOY.

2. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY: MAJOR KIEM KEO, TRI TON DISTRICT CHIEF, CHAU DOC PROVINCE, TOLD A VICE CONSUL MAY 24 THAT HIS VC COUNTERPART RECENTLY SENT HIM A LETTER URGING HIM TO OBSERVE THE CEASEFIRE. ADDRESSED TO THE HEAD OF THE GVN-CONTROLLED AREA, THE LETTER IMPORED KIEM KEO TO CEASE GROUND PROBES, ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND OTHER "WARLIKE ACTS". KIEM KEO DID NOT SAY WHETHER HE PLANS TO RESPOND.

BARNES  
UNQUOTE  
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a  
\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 MAY 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <10-Oct-2001 by willialc>; RELEASED <24-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980306  
**Subject:** SITREP FOR 28 MAY 1973  
**TAGS:** PINS, MILI, PINT  
**To:** EA  
JEC PARIS  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005